Interview Transcript
Interview Date: October 6, 2016
Interviewee: Sister Rose Adrian Peukert
Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Laura Townsend, Production Coordinator, CSJ Institute.
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[00:00:00.00] INTERVIEWER: [Director's comments]. So let's begin with you telling us your full name and your age.

[00:00:23.23] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I'm Sister Rose Adrian Peukert, and my age is eighty-six years old.

[00:00:33.00] INTERVIEWER: Tell us a little bit about your family and where you grew up.

[00:00:38.08] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I grew up in Oxnard, California. My father was a farmer. We lived five miles out of Oxnard. He had 107 acres and he basically grew--he started with alfalfa. He grew lima beans and also sugar beets for the sugar beet factory in Oxnard--and then later Anaheim chiles, peppers, and pimentos. My mother--was from Los Angeles--both my parents were from Los Angeles, and they lived there until the 1950s.

[00:01:32.24] INTERVIEWER: Do you have siblings?

[00:01:35.02] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I had two sisters, both of them older than I--my sister Mary was the oldest, and then my sister Betty, and then I came along. [laughs].

[00:01:48.26] INTERVIEWER: Was your family very religious?

[00:01:52.21] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh yes. We faithfully went to the six-thirty Mass every Sunday, except on the Knights of Columbus Sunday when we went to the eight o'clock Mass. All of us went through Santa Clara grammar school and high school, and that was paid for by my parents. So we grew up with religion in our house.
[00:02:24.01] INTERVIEWER: When did you know you wanted to become a Sister?

[00:02:27.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Not until I was in college. [laughs].

[00:02:31.04] INTERVIEWER: You went to college at Mount Saint Mary's for three years. My sister Betty went to the college four years ahead of me--she was three and a half years older than I. And so she went to the college and graduated from there, and then I began in 1948 as a freshman. I completed three years at the college, and then I entered the convent.

[00:03:03.29] INTERVIEWER: What were you studying at the Mount?

[00:03:06.10] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I was studying a group major--English, History and Education--because I wanted to be a teacher.

[00:03:16.06] INTERVIEWER: Were your parents supportive of you going to college?

[00:03:18.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh yes. Yes, they were most supportive of my going to college.

[00:03:23.12] INTERVIEWER: What were--who were some of the Sisters that you met that helped you to

decide to enter?

[00:03:31.21] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Sister Alice Marie Cheap [(1906-1984)] was one of the basic ones. Sister St. Francis [Sheerin]. There were several of the other Sisters that I knew. Sister Hortensia [Sister Mary Hortensia Lynch (-1969)]. I can't think of anyone else at this moment. [smiles].

[00:03:51.00] INTERVIEWER: Do you remember what attracted you to them?

[00:03:54.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, basically their joyousness, their interest in helping people, the way that they treated each other, the way that they treated the students. They were good teachers that I had--you know, all twelve fifteen years. So I basically was attracted by that, and their spirit.

[00:04:27.11] INTERVIEWER: Do you remember a time or a moment when you realized your calling?

[00:04:34.12] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well I would say that was when I was a sophomore in college, and my former roommate had entered, and I decided that I would also like to enter. But I didn't enter at that time--I waited another year.

[00:04:59.19] INTERVIEWER: What do you remember about your early days in the novitiate or as a postulant?

[00:05:03.09] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, life was obviously very controlled. [laughs]. We had a certain kind of a schedule that we lived with. We enjoyed afternoons when we went out to exercise and have fun. But we also had very good training while we were there--and instruction. So those were the kinds of things we enjoyed. We also--we loved to go out and have collation--[laughs]--which was you know, some kind of afternoon treat--peanut butter and jelly. [all laugh].

[00:05:46.14] INTERVIEWER: So food was [unintelligible].

[00:05:51.05] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Of course. Oh of course. You know, and we were all pretty young, so--we needed it too. And we worked hard.

[00:05:58.25] INTERVIEWER: Was your family surprised that you entered the convent?

[00:06:03.06] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I think my mother was rather surprised. My father--let's see--he--at one point I think he wanted to be a priest, and then I guess he met my mother and decided otherwise. But I don't think that he was upset about that. He did tell me after I entered that he wished I would have finished another year before I entered--but that was past tense. [laughs].

[00:06:33.11] INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the day you received the habit?

[00:06:39.08] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes, I do.

[00:06:40.14] INTERVIEWER: What was that like?

[00:06:41.13] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: March 19, 1952. Well it was thrilling because that was the symbol of being a Sister. And we finally got to be dressed as a Sister. I liked our habit very, very much. I thought it was very beautiful, and we all were very happy about making them ourselves, which we had to do. So, it was just the first step in actually being a religious.

[00:07:23.29] INTERVIEWER: What was your very first assignment?

[00:07:27.07] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I was assigned to St. Thomas's in San Francisco. I taught fifth grade for two years up there. And then my father had a stroke, and they moved me to Los Angeles and I taught at American Martyr's for two more years. One of my former students from my first class just died about two weeks ago. So that brings back memories of him and a goldfish that he won that he named "Rosie". [laughs].

[00:08:06.15] INTERVIEWER: Was that from St. Thomas?

[00:08:10.15] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes. That was from St. Thomas's.

[00:08:13.02] INTERVIEWER: Did you have contests where they won goldfish?

[00:08:16.02] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh, no. I think it was just some bazaar or something. [all laugh]. No. But James Peter was fun.

[00:08:27.12] INTERVIEWER: What was it like to be a young teacher in elementary school?

[00:08:31.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, we just did what we were supposed to do--we taught. And we corrected papers and we had--our superior then was a former novice mistress, so you didn't do a lot of creative things. [laughs]. Or go different places--at that time you didn't go out a whole lot.

[00:09:00.19] INTERVIEWER: Then you transitioned to teaching high school--is that correct?

[00:09:03.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes, uh-hm. I got--let's see. I graduated in 1954. And then in nineteen fifty--then I got an elementary education certificate. And then I was asked to pursue a Home Ec [Home Economics] major, and so I graduated--or I went--I completed that and also went to Long Beach State and got my masters in Home Ec. So I started teaching high school in San Diego at Our Lady of--well it was Regina Chaney--we lived at Our Lady of Angels, and we taught at Regina Chaney--until 1966. And then in 1966 we had to close the school because we didn't have enough students coming to take the tests. And there were other schools in San Diego that were Catholic schools. So we closed the school. And then I--let's see--I moved to--

[00:10:27.08] INTERVIEWER: --like, maybe to St. Joseph--

[00:10:30.29] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes. I taught at St. Joseph's for two years. And then I taught at Salpointe in Tucson for four years--and I taught Home Ec there plus other subjects. And then I came to Mount St. Mary's College.

[00:10:51.03] INTERVIEWER: What did you enjoy about teaching Home Ec?

[00:10:54.11] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, I enjoyed sewing because I had a very good background in that. And the cooking was good, but I had a much better background with regards to sewing, because my mother had taught me how to sew, and it was something that I could teach the girls. The one problem with that was after I got my masters they dropped it from the school curriculum at the University, so that meant that eventually they dropped it pretty much out of high school too. So then I went on to teach other things.

[00:11:36.11] INTERVIEWER: So you've taught a whole variety of subjects and grades.

[00:11:40.00] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes.

[00:11:40.09] INTERVIEWER: Does anything stand out for--what you enjoyed, or?

[00:11:37.16] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh I enjoyed being at the Mount as Director of Residence. I enjoyed the girls very much. We had an organization called the Pi Theta Mu, which is a service organization. And the girls were just tremendously generous about helping out with serving whenever the Mount had some kind of--an event that required service. So we really did very well. I think I enjoyed the girls very much there. I also enjoyed being the Director of Residence.

[00:12:25.16] INTERVIEWER: Tell me what that entailed.

[00:12:27.24] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh. Lots of things. [laughs]. First of all you had to try to put

together the applicants--to put them together in rooms if they asked for a single room or double room, whatever it was. And they would give you some kind of an indication of their interests, and then you'd try to match them, and put them together. And that was an interesting experience. And then to watch them and see how they turned out. [smiles]. I enjoyed them very much. The girls were really, really great girls. And it was a good experience. I don't know. I spent a lot of time at the residence desk. I spent a lot of time up late, because they had a curfew, and they were supposed to be in by midnight. So there were a lot of things that demanded being present and being around, knowing what is going on or what was going on in the dorms. We used to have panty raids by--the boys from Loyola [University] would come over and invade the dorms. And of course, the girls had let them in. [laughs]. And, you know, they'd come, they'd streak through and then they'd leave. And we'd go on. [laughs]. So--but the girls were just really great to work with--very generous, and I really enjoyed my time with them.

[00:14:17.09] INTERVIEWER: Are there any alums that you are particularly in touch with or particularly proud of?

[00:14:23.14] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Beth Hill Kin [Elizabeth Hill Kin '52, nurse]--I am still in contact with her. A couple of the other girls--Martha Measures [Dana '73, (-2010)]--however, she's deceased at this point in time. And another girl that I know that didn't graduate, but she's in--back East--she lives back East. So there are ones that I still keep in contact with. The nursing students were great. You know, but they worked very, very hard. Because they had to go for training two days a week, and so it was a--it was difficult to be studying and also going to training.

[00:15:16.19] INTERVIEWER: Did you know any young women at that time who had entered the convent while they were at the Mount?

[00:15:22.23] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Um, let's see if I know. I don't think I remember anybody special.

[00:15:29.23] INTERVIEWER: Who were some of the other Sisters that you worked with at the Mount at that time?

[00:15:33.07] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Sister Patricia Supple--and she lived in the dorms with us. We had Sisters on some of the floors in the dorms, and she was one of the ones that was there. And we have been friends ever since. [laughs]. And let's see--well most of the other Sisters I knew from the college are probably deceased.

[00:16:00.25] INTERVIEWER: We'd be happy to hear any stories or memories about Sisters that are deceased if you can remember from that time.

[00:16:09.02] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh. I remember Sister Alice Marie [Cheap (1906-1984)] and building the pool at the Mount. I think that was in my freshman year. And I remember going out with her and we met this man. And she went over and she lifted up his cap. And I couldn't figure out what was going on. It was her father. [laughs]. But anyway, she was very good to me and helped me to enter eventually. But she was most enjoyable. And Sister St. Francis [Sheerin] I worked with when we went to college on Saturdays. And I worked with her in the office. She took care of the young Sisters and their whatever education they were supposed to be following. So I enjoyed being with her and--those were the two that I knew the best.

[00:17:16.05] INTERVIEWER: Did you have Sisters as faculty that you remember?

[00:17:21.19] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: I remember from high school--I remember Sister St. Bernard [Johnson, (1914-2003)]. I remember Sister Ursula [??]. I remember Sister Patricia Clare [Mullin (1908-2002)]. Those were three of my teachers in high school. In college--um, let's see--I had Sister--I can't think of her name right now. Let's see--it escapes me. We had a chemistry teacher, but that was a man. And--I'm sorry. [laughs].

[00:18:03.02] INTERVIEWER: That's okay. It's quite all right. When you were teaching high school was

when the Second Vatican Council began. What are your memories of learning about the Council and how it affected you?

[00:18:18.03] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well I would say not a whole lot happened with regard to Vatican II actually coming into the curriculum. I think that--there wasn't a lot of introduction from the different pastors and parishes. I really can't say that it affected us immediately at all. I would have to say that it took quite a long time, and probably study of the documents before we really get to a place where you see something happening in the Church with regard to Vatican II.

[00:19:12.04] INTERVIEWER: Is there a particular reform of Vatican II or document that stood out for you?

[00:19:18.02] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Not especially. I would think that the ideas that stand out for me have to do with the emphasis on social justice, and what the community has gradually done with regard to promoting those concepts--that concept. And I think that was very, very important.

[00:19:44.27] INTERVIEWER: What--how did it change--we'll talk more about--I want to ask you more about social justice--but how did it change community life for you or did it?

[00:19:56.12] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes, I would say that it definitely changed community life for us, because it introduced not wearing the habit--it introduced a variety with regard to having Mass in the vernacular. I think those things were things that really affected the Sisters. And it also opened up different ministries for us. Because the emphasis when I entered was very definitely teaching and nursing, or health care. And I didn't get exposed to anything with regard to health care when I was in high school because we lived so far out of town that--some of my class mates you know used to go to the hospital to volunteer--but I didn't have that experience. So from those--from the emphasis on those things, we go on to looking at bigger issues and trying to take--to address the needs of the time, which is something that our community embraces--that we try to look at the needs of the time, and see what we can do to respond to them. And I think that's very important. And it has affected us very much.

[00:21:31.29] INTERVIEWER: Was it true for you that that time was--in terms of going back to the roots of the foundation?

[00:21:38.00] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh definitely.

[00:21:38.29] INTERVIEWER: How did that impact you personally as a Sister?

[00:21:41.01] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, I think that it deepens what religious life means for a person--that you look deeper at your vocation and see what you're really trying to do. Because it starts out with doing something--it starts out with a lot of obedience to rules and regulations, and then gradually you take on the concept of, "What do I really see religious life means?" And then it deepens your spirituality--it deepens your relationship with God--and then it deepens how you respond to the needs of other people.

[00:22:33.15] INTERVIEWER: Was there something you learned about the early history of your community that spoke to you?

[00:22:40.04] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh, well, the Trek of the Seven [Sisters, May 1870] of course, because when I went--I loved Tucson when I was missioned to Tucson. And the Trek was something that I enjoyed reading about and trying to experience. But also not only the Trek of the Seven, but reading about Mother St. John Fontbonne [Jeanne Fontbonne (1759-1843)] and her life, and how she expanded the community--how well she met the needs, and her insights are just extraordinary. So I would say reading about her--reading her life--certainly impressed me. And it does take you farther into what your vocation really means.

[00:23:39.17] INTERVIEWER: Would you just for the sake of our record here say just a few sentences about what the Trek is?

[00:23:47.09] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh. The Trek was the time when the Sisters went from Los

Angeles to Tucson. And I think there were what seven Sisters, and they were on a covered wagon. And some of them of course were walking. And there was a point at which they come to Picacho Peak [Arizona] where they have some trouble and they think that the Indians are going to attack. Eventually they get to Tucson and are welcomed when they get there. But the Trek of the Seven is kind of fascinating--that they could do that at that point in history. [laughs].

[00:24:38.05] INTERVIEWER: When you talk about "responding to the needs of the times" are there particular issues that you've become passionate about?

[00:24:47.02] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Definitely the idea that we are here to bring our--to follow Christ, and to make sure that when we meet people, we are trying to meet them in a way that Christ would do that. And so--in my variety of ministries, there are times when I haven't been in a teaching position. I've been in other positions. So it hasn't been an emphasis on any particular social issue. But it has been an emphasis on trying to treat people with kindness--trying to address their needs wherever they are, and trying to do that in a way that imitates that Christ would do it.

[00:25:50.10] INTERVIEWER: How would you describe your CSJ spirituality?

[00:25:56.07] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, let's see. I'm a Sister of St. Joseph. I admire St. Joseph greatly for his wonderful response to the whole situation in which he was. I would say--could you repeat the question?

[00:26:21.16] INTERVIEWER: Spirituality of being a Sister.

[00:26:25.00] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Since I've come here we have spent a lot of time--I've spent a lot of time reading to Sister [Madeline ??]. And we enjoy the books that we have read, and I think that has helped me to deepen my views of religious life and what it means to have a vocation and what it means to deepen one's spirituality. So a lot of it has been through reading, and through the retreats--we have an annual retreat--and I've learned a lot to look underneath the surface of things to try to find God there in the persons that we meet in whatever we see as a problem out there--in persevering in prayer every day, and trying to get to Mass every single day. That's where my spirituality is.

[00:27:39.21] INTERVIEWER: Is there a particular book or author recently that impacted you?

[00:27:44.07] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well there have been lots of them, but I like Margaret [Wheatley]. We're right now we're reading "Fields of Compassion" by [Judy] Cannato. That's very, very good. But we've read lots of things that I have enjoyed. "Sacred Eyes [by L. Robert Keck, PhD?] also. Those are some of the books that we talk about. I also enjoy our "clusters" because they do give us opportunity to discuss the community and different things that we should be concerned about.

[00:28:27.20] INTERVIEWER: Just check my notes. After you were at the Mount it looks like you did have a variety of other ministries?

[00:28:45.10] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes. I was at Daniel Murphy--let's see after the Mount I went to Divine Savior for three years, and I taught seventh and eighth grade Math and Religion. And then after that I went to Daniel Murphy, and I was there from '81 to what--to 2002. We were there for a long time, but I did a variety of things during that period of time. But at Daniel Murphy I didn't--I only taught I think one semester I think that I was there. But I was in the office as Receptionist, I was Registrar--and I worked in the Library--I substituted in some of the classrooms--I had the Bookstore--I was Receptionist at the desk. So I did a lot of things at Daniel Murphy. And then after that I was administrator at Carondelet Center for ten years. And that was another very good experience.

[00:29:58.13] INTERVIEWER: During your time at Carondelet Center, what changes or shifts did you notice in the community?

[00:30:04.23] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well--I think it was a time when we had a different approach to leadership. We had team leaders rather than provincial and assistant provincials. I think working

that out was--changed life for us. Also we did not have as many retired Sisters living at the Center at that point in time. So the demands were not--with regard to that they were not as many. It also was a time when we had the--we had to do something about the hill, because the hill was slipping below us. So when you went out the front door, the top step was getting higher--[laughs]--or the ground below it was getting lower. So it was during that time that we had to reinforce the wall along Bundy going up to the college. So we spent a great deal of time doing that. That took almost a year to do. And it was very, very demanding. We didn't have as much use of the South wing then as we have now, and we didn't have as many Sisters in the North area--the central area.

[00:31:52.19] INTERVIEWER: Do you consider yourself retired now?

[00:31:58.26] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes I consider myself retired, but I try to help here as much as I can. For a period of time after I left Daniel Murphy I helped with my sister--my middle sister--who had a quadruple bypass surgery and needed assistance. So I went up to help with her--but not on a permanent basis. I helped out every two or three weeks I would go up to help with caregiving and to cover her finances and those kind of things--maintain the house. So here I do spend time helping with Sister Mary [??]. I also read to [Madeline] every day--or try to Monday through Friday. We both--Sister Mary and I help cook when the cook doesn't come. And there are a lot of things--I mean, I never stop being busy. [laughs]. I love to sew. I haven't had a whole lot of time to do that, but I do like to do that. I like to read. I like to make what I call "sand pictures". [laughs]. And do creative things. I do a lot of the decorating. So those are the things that keep me busy.

[00:33:39.09] INTERVIEWER: What would you say you're most proud of of your congregation or your province?

[00:33:46.27] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh. One of the things would be who we are, and our response to the needs of the time. I like the fact that we really do try to meet those needs. And they have changed so much during this period of time, that you look at education and health care and you see that that's back there. And that's not how we can address where we are today. So we have to pay attention to the technology that's out there. We have to try to help education to provide for that so that people can use the advances to their advantage. And I think that that's not really happening in education at that point in time. There are so many needs, but life has changed so much, and it changes so fast that it is very hard to say how do we respond to that and to the future. I have a great hope for our future. I do not think it will continue as it is right now. I think it has to change. I hope that the Holy Spirit will be with us to help us to change. I do see our charism persevering, especially through our contacts with people--outsiders or the laity. They have a lot to contribute to us and I think that the leadership at Mount St. Mary's College--I'm most proud of what the college has accomplished. I lived with Sister Cecilia Louise [Moore (1928-2004), former MSMU President] for many years. She's a great woman. And the people who have run the college or have been in charge of the college ever since then have been extraordinary and have done wonders. And I'm very, very proud of what the college has accomplished. I think it really wonderful that they can do so many things, and that they have introduced so many things. The college has certainly expanded since I was there. [laughs].

[00:36:36.23] INTERVIEWER: I had one thing--oh. I saw a picture of you at the CAST gala. Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. Have you been involved with that organization?

[00:36:52.26] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Not a whole lot. I've gone on some of the walks that we have when we've had meetings. No I went because Sister Catherine Marie [Kreta '61] is my reception, and I wanted to be there to support her. And she was so responsible for what happened there with CAST, and what has gone on--how they have tried to do something about human trafficking.

[00:37:23.25] INTERVIEWER: Do you have any stories of Sister Catherine Marie you would share with us?

[00:37:27.27] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: [laughs]. Not especially, no. [laughs].

[00:37:32.28] INTERVIEWER: Okay. Or anything about her that you would like us to know?

[00:37:35.20] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Well, she's an extraordinary woman. In our novitiate they almost didn't have her go on because she had some problems--physical problems with her leg I think. And you look at that and you say and here she goes on and she's our provincial--[laughs]--and well liked throughout the community--wonderful in what she did for CAST--all of the work that she accomplished through that. So she definitely is extraordinary. And she was always entertaining no matter what. She could put on a great show. [laughs].

[00:38:26.23] INTERVIEWER: Is there anything else that you reflected on or prepared that you would like to share that I haven't asked you about?

[00:38:32.17] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh, let's see. I don't think there's anything special.

[00:38:50.07] INTERVIEWER: What has been your greatest joy in religious life?

[00:38:56.08] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: [laughs]. Well, just being a Sister, you know. I have never looked back once I entered. I have never looked back to say that I didn't want to be here. I definitely want to be--to continue to be a Sister of St. Joseph. I love our community. I think it does wonderful things. And I hope to persevere through how many more years I have left.

[00:39:28.00] INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Anything else come to mind?

[00:39:32.00] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: [shakes head no]

[00:39:35.00] KELBY THWAITS: So I grew up in Tucson, Arizona. I'm very familiar with the--with all of Arizona and St. Joseph's Hospital, Salpointe--I have a lot of good friends who went there. I was curious what your most memorable time was--or your most memorable experiences were in Tucson, Arizona--either your most challenging or your most rewarding.

[00:39:59.19] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: [laughs]. Well, let's see. At Salpointe I was still teaching Home Economics, and that was probably the first time I had boys in the class for Home Economics, because all the rest of the places had just girls. So that was an experience--but not too--you know not extraordinary in any way. For Tucson, I just loved the beauty of Tucson, and the uniqueness of it. I hadn't experienced snow very often, so when it snowed in Tucson that was great. And the desert was so beautiful. I just enjoyed the whole time I was there, even when it was hot. I also enjoyed when I came back in the summer and worked at St. Joseph in the child care. The parents could bring their children from like six months to six years for the day. And I went during the summer for two summers and worked there with the small children. I always wanted to be a teacher of small children, and that didn't happen. [laughs]. So my experience of Tucson was just to enjoy Tucson and all the beauty. And you know we went to Mount Lemmon--we went to the different areas. So you saw so much of nature that was different from what I had experienced in California. Of course I've always loved nature too. I love the ocean--that's what I missed when I was in Tucson. [laughs]. But other than that--Salpointe was just Salpointe. [laughs].

[00:42:04.06] KELBY THWAITS: I agree. [all laugh].

[00:42:08.04] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: The Brothers--I mean, the priests that were there--they were very nice. We had a good relationship with them. One of the things I also enjoyed was going to the desert and having Mass in the desert. That was fun. That was great. And the Desert Museum--all of those things--most of it was Tucson that I enjoyed.

[00:42:34.22] KELBY THWAITS: That's great. Thank you.

[00:42:38.27] INTERVIEWER: Anything else you'd like to share?

[00:42:43.07] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: [shakes head no]. No.

[00:42:44.12] INTERVIEWER: Thank you so very much. [Director's comments].

[00:43:01.17] KELBY THWAITS: So this is Laura, who you've met, right? Go ahead and take a look over at Laura and just think about how you feel about Laura. Has she been nice to you?

[00:43:11.22] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh yes. It was nice to have her come in. When we were downstairs having breakfast and she smiled very nicely, and we enjoyed each other down there with Sister Patricia Supple entertaining her. [laughs]. And then over here--

[00:43:33.22] INTERVIEWER: Mary [Trunk?].

[00:43:35.11] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Yes. Mary got blessed. She got excused from being.. [laughs].

[00:43:41.21] MARY TRUNK: I did. I got forgiven. So I was very happy about that.

[00:43:44.20] KELBY THWAITS: Oh congratulations.

[00:43:46.24] SISTER ROSE ADRIAN PEUKERT: Oh Sister Patricia would always give somebody a hard time.

[00:43:50.11] MARY TRUNK: Oh I like that about her.

[00:43:52.15] INTERVIEWER: [Director's comments].

[00:44:21.10] End of interview.

Interview Index

Interview Date: October 6, 2016
Interviewee: Sister Rose Adrian Peukert
Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University.
Location: [Carondelet Center]
Transcription Date: 12/16/2016
Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] Introduction. Name and age: Sister Rose Adrian Peukert [pronounced "Pye-kert"], 86 years old.

[00:00:33.03] Early life and family. Born Oxnard, California. Family farm. Siblings: two older sisters (Mary and Betty).

[00:01:50.08] Early religious experience. Attending Mass. Santa Clara grammar school and high school.

[00:02:23.14] Early vocation. Attended Mount Saint Mary's 1948-1954, then entered convent. Sister Betty also alumna. Major in English, History and Education.

[00:03:24.05] Sisters at MSMU. Sister Alice Marie Cheap [(1906-1984)]. Sister St. Francis [Sheerin]. Sister Hortensia [Sister Mary Hortensia Lynch (-1969)]. Attraction to CSJs. Realizing calling as sophomore.

[00:04:58.21] Early days in novitiate. Regimentation. Training. Collation (afternoon treat--peanut butter and jelly). Family reaction to vocation.

[00:06:34.15] Receiving the habit March 19, 1952. Making own habit.

[00:07:22.19] First mission. Teaching fifth grade at St. Thomas in San Francisco for two years. Teaching American Martyrs in Los Angeles for two years. Student [James Peter] pet goldfish "Rosie".

[00:08:28.18] Early teaching experience. Graduating from Mount 1954 with elementary education certificate. Attended Long Beach State for Masters in Home Economics. Teaching high school in San Diego at Regina Chaney High School until 1966--living at Our Lady of Angels. School closure. Teaching at St. Joseph's two years. Teaching at Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona four years--home economics and other subjects. Then teaching at the Mount.

[00:10:50.27] Teaching home economics. Sewing. Sewing dropped from curriculum.

[00:11:35.24] Other teaching. Director of Residence at the Mount. Matching students to rooms. Pi Theta Mu service organization--campus hostesses. Student curfew. Panty raids by students from Loyola Marymount University.

[00:14:17.12] Alumna memories. Beth Hill Kin [Elizabeth Hill Kin '52, nurse]. Martha Measures [Dana '73, (-2010)]. Nursing students.

[00:15:28.24] Other Sisters at Mount. Sister Patricia Supple. Sr. Alice Marie Cheap [(1906-1984)]--building pool at Chalon, 1948--lifting man's cap. Working with Sister St. Francis [Sheerin].

[00:17:16.29] Sisters as faculty. High school: Sister St. Bernard [Johnson, (1914-2003)]; Sister Ursula [??]; Sister Patricia Clare [Mullin (1908-2002)].

[00:18:05.27] Vatican II. Little impact to curriculum. No immediate introduction from pastors. Emphasis on social justice. Changes to community life--Change in habit, Mass in vernacular, new ministries. Addressing needs of the time.

[00:21:32.08] Returning to roots of CSJs. Deeper meaning of religious life. Early history of CSJs--Trek of the Seven Sisters. Mother St. John Fontbonne [Jeanne Fontbonne (1759-1843)], CSJ refounder.

[00:24:37.00] Responding to needs of the times. Meeting people as Jesus would.

[00:25:52.04] CSJ spirituality. St. Joseph. Reading to Sister [Madeline ??]. Retreats. Looking beyond surface of things to find God. Books and authors: Margaret [Wheatley], author; Judy Cannato "Fields of Compassion"; "Sacred Eyes [by L. Robert Keck, PhD?]. "Clusters"--discussing community.

[00:28:33.19] Other ministries. Teaching seventh and eighth grade math and religion at Divine Savior three years. Daniel Murphy 1981-2002--teaching 1 semester, receptionist, registrar, library, substitute teacher, bookstore. Administrator Carondelet Center for 10 years.

[00:29:58.21] Carondelet Center--changes in community. Changing approach to leadership--team leaders instead of provincials. Fewer retired Sisters at that time. Facility repairs--reinforcing walls due to land slippage.

[00:31:53.19] Retirement activities. Caregiving for sister. Assisting Sister Mary [??]. Reading to Sister [Madeline ??]. Cooking. Sewing. Making sand pictures. Decorating.

[00:33:40.10] Pride in community. Response to needs of time. Changes in technology. Hope for future. Working with lay partners. Pride in the Mount. Living with Sister Cecilia Louise [Moore (1928-2004)], former MSMU President.

[00:36:36.09] CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking). Sister Catherine Marie [Kreta '61].

[00:38:26.02] Other reflections. Greatest joy of religious life.

[00:39:31.01] Memorable experiences in Tucson, Arizona. Salpointe teaching Home Economics to boys. Working in Child Care at St. Joseph. Love of nature. Mass in the desert.

[00:42:36.06] [Director's comments].

[00:44:22.06] End of interview.